

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01881 140040Z

ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-01 ACDA-07 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 /163 W

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FROM: LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS SIT REP--JUNE 10-11

1. DEBATE ON EVENSEN'S REVISED TEXT ON THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION PROCEEDED AS EXPECTED THROUGH THREE SESSIONS JUNE 10 AND A CONCLUDING MEETING JUNE 11. VIRTUALLY ALL SPEAKERS HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR EVENSEN'S PERSONAL EFFORTS, BUT FOUND LITTLE IN HIS DRAFT TEXT ABOUT WHICH TO COMPLIMENT HIM. COMPLETING HIS WORK, EVENSEN SUBMITTED A FINAL REVISION TO COMMITTEE I CHAIRMAN ENGO, WHO HAS DECLINED TO DISTRIBUTE IT FOR THE MOMENT. ENGO WILL RECONVENE COMMITTEE I ON JUNE 14.

2. THE US (RICHARDSON) LED THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' ASSAULT ON EVENSEN'S TEXT WITH HIS STERNEST STATMENT OF THE CONFERENCE (TEXT POUCHED). RICHARDSON SAID THE EVENSEN TEXT DOES NOT POINT TOWARD AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE. HE WENT ON TO DETAIL SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN THE TREATMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION (ARTICLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01881 140040Z

22, ANNEX 1). HE WARNED AGAIN ABOUT THE TENDENCY TO CREATE DISINCENTIVES FOR INVESTMENT IN THE SEABED BY IMPOSING EXCESSIVE FRONT-END FEES, RESTRICTIVE PRODUCTION CONTROLS, MANDATORY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. RICHARDSON ALSO FAULTED EVENSEN FOR FAILING TO INCORPORATE PROVISIONS WITH REGARD TO FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN CONTRACTORS AND THE AUTHORITY AND WITH REGARD TO LOAN GUARANTEED FOR FINANCING THE ENTERPRISE, IGNORING CONCRETE

PROPOSALS OF THE US AND OTHER DELEGATIONS.

3. THE UK (LOGAN), FRG (KNOLE) AND JAPAN LATER CONTRIBUTED STRONG REMARKS ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO THE US. THE SOVIET UNION, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO DISPLAY A CONCILIATORY POSTURE, DESCRIBING THE EVENSEN TEXT AS A "STEP FORWARD TOWARD COMPROMISE." THE USSR SAID IT WAS PREPARED TO AGREE TO THE EVENSEN FORMULATION OF A UNITARY SYSTEM, UNDER WHICH ALL ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA ARE CONDUCTED BY THE AUTHORITY, EITHER DIRECTLY OR IN ASSOCIATION WITH STATE ENTITIES. THE SOVIETS AGAIN PLUGGED THEIR ANTI-MONOPOLY QUOTA PROPOSAL, AND, PREDICTABLY, BRIDLED AT EVENSEN'S SUGGESTION FOR "MANDATORY" STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO FINANCE THE ENTERPRISE.

4. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, LACKING A CONSENSUS POSITION, CONTINUED TO SPEAK OUT ON THEIR OWN, REFLECTING VARYING DEGREES OF DISAGREEMENT WITH THE EVENSEN TEXT. G-77 SPOKESMAN DESOTO (PERU) INTERVENED ON HIS COUNTRY'S BEHALF TO INDORSE THE EVENSEN PROCESS WHILE NOTING STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE LATEST TEXT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE HARSHNESS OF INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY STATEMENT, TAKING ISSUE WITH THE US COMPLAINT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE LEADING TO A SYSTEM OF "NON-EXPLOITATION." COLOMBIA, DISCOURAGED BY ALLEGED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY RIGIDITY, SUGGESTED THAT THE CONFERENCE CONSIDER VOTING IF NO PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARD CONSENSUS.

5. THE PRC (CHANG) OUTDID ALGERIA IN A VITRIOLIC ATTACK ON INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES. OF ALL THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO INTERVENE IN MORE THAN 12 HOURS OF DISCUSSION, THE PRC CAME CLOSEST TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01881 140040Z

REJECTING THE EVENSEN TEXT. THEY SAID THE TEXT CONTAINS "SERIOUS DEFECTS" WHICH WOULD GIVE THE SUPERPOWERS AND TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS "THE GREEN LIGHT TO PLUNDER THE SEABED." THE MAIN MESSAGE OF THE PRC STATEMENT SEEMED AIMED NOT FOR THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES BUT FOR THE G-77. IT CALLED ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO RESIST "TREACHEROUS" EFFORTS BY SUPERPOWERS TO UNDERMINE THEIR UNITY AND TO ENGAGE IN "UNDISGUIDED BLACKMAIL."

6. THE LAND-BASED PRODUCERS (PERU, CHILE, ZAIRE) USED THAT SAME CONSPIRACY THEME TO PREVENT PUBLICATION OF A POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING REPORT BY THE UN SECRETARIAT. ALMOST TWO WEEKS AGO, MEXICO HAD REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT TO COMPILE DATA ON THE PROBABLE EFFECTS OF SEABED MINING ON THE COPPER MARKET. PERU AND CHILE WORKED BEHIND THE SCENES TO PREVENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE FIGURES, WHICH DEMONSTRATED THAT THE LAND-BASED COPPER PRODUCES WERE ALREADY ADEQUATELY PROTECTED UNDER THE RSNT SEABED PRODUCTION LIMIT (AN ARGUMENT THAT THE US HAS FREQUENTLY MADE). AT A JUNE 10 EVENSEN GROUP MEETING, THE UK RECALLED THE MEXICAN REQUEST. THE COPPER PRODUCERS LEAPED IN TO QUESTION THE

NEED FOR SUCH A REPORT (AND THE MOTIVES OF THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES
IN PRESSING FOR IT). THEIR NERVOUS REACTION STALLED RELEASE
OF THE DATA, BUT MAY HAVE TARNISHED THEIR CREDIBILITY
WITHIN THE G-77.
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Message Attributes

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